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Two colleges call CIA tests a shock

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SPOKESMEN for Rutgers and Princeton universities said Monday they were surprised by letters from the Central Intelligence Agency informing them that the schools had been involved in CIA-sponsored research on altering human behavior.

In a letter written to Rutgers President Edward J. Bloustein, CIA General Counsel Anthony Lapham wrote that the CIA in Project MKULTRA conducted experiments in the 1950s and 1960s "designed to identify materials and methods useful in altering human behavior patterns."

"Although the more highly publicized portion of this activity concerned the testing of effects of various types of drugs on humans," Lapham wrote, "most of the research did not involve such testing but rather only far less controversial investigations into aspects of human behavior and its determinants."

LAPHAM informed both Rutgers and Princeton that the schools are "included among the institutions at which some portion of this CIA-sponsored research appears to have been performed or with which one or more individuals performing some aspect of this research were affiliated."

According to Lapham's letter, some individuals and institutions involved in the experiments "were

not informed that the research was connected in any way with the CIA."

Lapham said that until three documents were found in 1973, it was believed that all Project MKULTRA records had been destroyed by the CIA.

The information in the documents is fragmentary, Lapham said, but identifies the researchers and institutions involved and the funding mechanisms used to conceal CIA interest.

BOTH RUTGERS and Princeton were surprised by the letters and spokesman for the two schools said both have written to the CIA for further information.

"We had not expected to be among these institutions," said Dennis Sullivan, assistant to Princeton University presidents William G. Bowen.

"It is not clear if research was done here or not or if individuals were involved," he said.

Bloustein said that in 1966, several faculties of Rutgers, the University Research Council and the Research Administration Board passed resolutions recommending the rejection of any research project whose results would not be freely published. Dr. Mason W. Gross, then president of the university, declared that would be the school's official policy.